Sugar year (Oct.-Sept.)	No. of factories functioning	Installed Annual Sugar Production capacity of working sugar factories	Sugar Production
		(lakh tonnes)	(lakh tonnes)
1993-94	23	3.238	2.21 3.94 3.79
1994-95	18	2.900	(Prov.)
1995-96	19	3.023	

(c) and (d) To increase sugar production in Bihar, the Government have issued 10 letters of intent for setting up of new sugar factories and 13 letters of intent for expansion of existing units as on 30.6.97.

Severe Sea-city of Rice in the Country

1272. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe scarcity of rice in the country;

(b) whether rice is being imported for this reason;

(c) if so, the reasons led to shortage of rice;

(d) the steps taken to meet the growing demand of rice; and

(e) the datails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, Government has permitted import of common/coarse varieties of rice and rice with 50% or more brokens freely with a view to augmenting its availability in the country with effect from 27.5.97. There is no proposal at present for import of rice on Government account.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) FCI has more than 9.3 million tonnes of rice in stock as on 1.7.97 as against buffer stock norms requirement of 9.2 million tonnes of rice for the 1st July. The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has reached 120.85 lakh MT (upto 28.7.97) during 1996-97 Kharif season which is adequate to meet the demand of TPDS/ Welfare schemes etc.

कच्छ और बनासकांठा के सूखाग्रस्त जिलों में सार्वजानिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए अतिरिक्त कोटा

1273. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला :** क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को गुजरात के सूखाग्रस्त जिले कच्छ और बनासकांठा में सार्वजानिक वितरण प्रणाली के अंतर्गत गेहूं, चावल, मिट्टी के तेल, खाद्य तेल तथा चीनी का अतिरिक्त कोटा जारी करने के संबंध में गुजरात सरकार से कोई विशेष अनुरोध प्राप्त हुआ है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या इन जिलों में लगातार सूखे की स्थिति के परिणामस्वरूप विशेष रूप से खाद्यान्नों की कमी आ रही हैं तथा इससे प्रभावित जनसंख्या तेजी से बढ़ती जा रही हैं; और

(घ) सरकार ने इस विशेष स्थिति के संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की हैं?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामलों के राज्य मंत्री (श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह) : (क) गुजरात सरकार से बाढ़ राहत के लिए सार्वजानिक वितरण प्रणाली की

वस्तुओं को अतिरिक्त आवंटन करने हेतु ऐसा कोई अनुरोध प्राप्त नहीं हुआ हैं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) और (घ) सार्वजानिक वितरण प्रणाली केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारों के संयुक्त दायित्व के अधीन क्रियान्वित की जा रही हैं। तथापि, केन्द्रीय सरकार का दायित्व"बल्क" में खाद्यान्नों की वसूली करना और राज्यों को उपलब्ध कराना हैं। लेकिन राज्य के अंदर वितरण का दायित्व राज्य सरकार का हैं। राज्य सरकार को सार्वजानिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुओं का मासिक कोटा नियमित रूप से आवंटित किया जा रहा हैं और यदि कोई विशेष आवश्यकता हो तो उसे इसमें से पूरा किया जा सकता हैं।

FCI's Purchase Organisation for Rice at Tadepalligudem in Andhra Pradesh

1274. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India has a big purchase organisation for rice at Tadepalligudem in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the quantum of rice purchased at Tadepalligudem by FCI in 1996-97;

(c) whether the same brisk purchase of rice will be done in 1997-98; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CON-UMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The FCI is operating 17 rice (levy) purchase centres and 27 paddy purchase centres in the West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh with Headquarters at Tadepalligudem.

(b) A quantity of 6.6 lakh tonnes of rice was procured in FCI district of Tadepalligudem during 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season.

(c) and (d) It is pre-mature to indicate the likely procurement of rice in Kharif Marketing Season 1997-98 which will commence from 1st October, 1997.

Two Kilograms of Foodgrains per month under TPDS for the Labourers

1275. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) while introducing TPDS whether Government feels that two kilograms of foodgrains per month is sufficient for labourer to allow him to have sufficient calorie intake;

(b) if not, whether Government will agree to supply foodgrains in excess of two kilograms per month through TPDS;

(c) whether Government have studied the number of families below poverty level at the marco-level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Under the TPDS, 10 kg. of foodgrains per family per month are issued at specially subsidised prices to the families Below Poverty Line (BPL). Besides it, foodgrains @ 1 kg. per monday at specially subsidised prices will be provided under EAS/JRY schemes to the poor people offering themselves for work under these schemes. Thus the poor families can get 10 kg. of foodgrains p.m. under the normal eligibility as BPL families and an additional 8 to 16 kg. p.m. under EAS/JRY schemes at specially subsidised prices. However, the Public Distribution System is not a substitute for the open market but only a supplement to it.

(b) It is possible to increase the scale of 10 kg. per family per month provided a consensus emerges to exclude the APL families from PDS in the matter of« foodgrains.

(c) and (d) Government of India have adopted the estimates of population